



Berrien RESA Constitution Day

VOCABULARY LIST

Amendment: A formal change to the constitution.

Articles of Confederation: The first constitution or set of rules established by the Continental Congress for the original 13 states.

Bill of Rights: The first ten amendments to the Constitution.

Checks and Balances: A system that allows each branch of government to have the power to check each other to maintain a balance of power.

Compromise: Coming to an agreement.

Constitution: The document that established the basic rules and principles of the American government.

Declaration of Independence: The document signed to declare the colonies' independence from England

Delegate: A person elected and sent to the constitutional convention to represent his state.

Executive Branch: The branch of government headed by the President that makes sure laws are obeyed.

George Washington: The first president of the US, commander of the Continental Army

House of Representatives: Part of congress responsible for creating spending bills and determining if governmental officials should be on trial for criminal acts. The house is made up of representatives from each state based on the state's population.

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James Madison: Man considered the father of the Constitution

King George III: King of England during the time surrounding the American Revolution

Judicial Branch: Branch of government made up of the court system that decides arguments about the meaning of laws, how laws are applied, and whether or not laws break the rules set forth in the Constitution.

Legislative Branch: Branch of government that makes the laws, also known as Congress. Congress is made up of two parts, the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Preamble: The introduction section of the Constitution, explains why the Constitution was written

President: The leader of the country and the head of the executive branch of government.

Senate: Part of Congress responsible for approving or disapproving treaties the president created, appointments made by the president, and holding trials for people that commit crimes against the country. The senate is made up of two representatives from each state known as senators.

Supreme Court: The highest court in the United States court system and the head of the judicial branch.

1787: Year the Constitution was written.